



ST. STEPHEN'S WITNESS

ST. STEPHEN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

P.O. BOX 609

HEATHSVILLE, VIRGINIA 22473

804-580-4555 www.ststephensva.org

Church e-mail: ssa@nnwifi.com



ALIVE IN CHRIST 1881 - 2013

APRIL 2013

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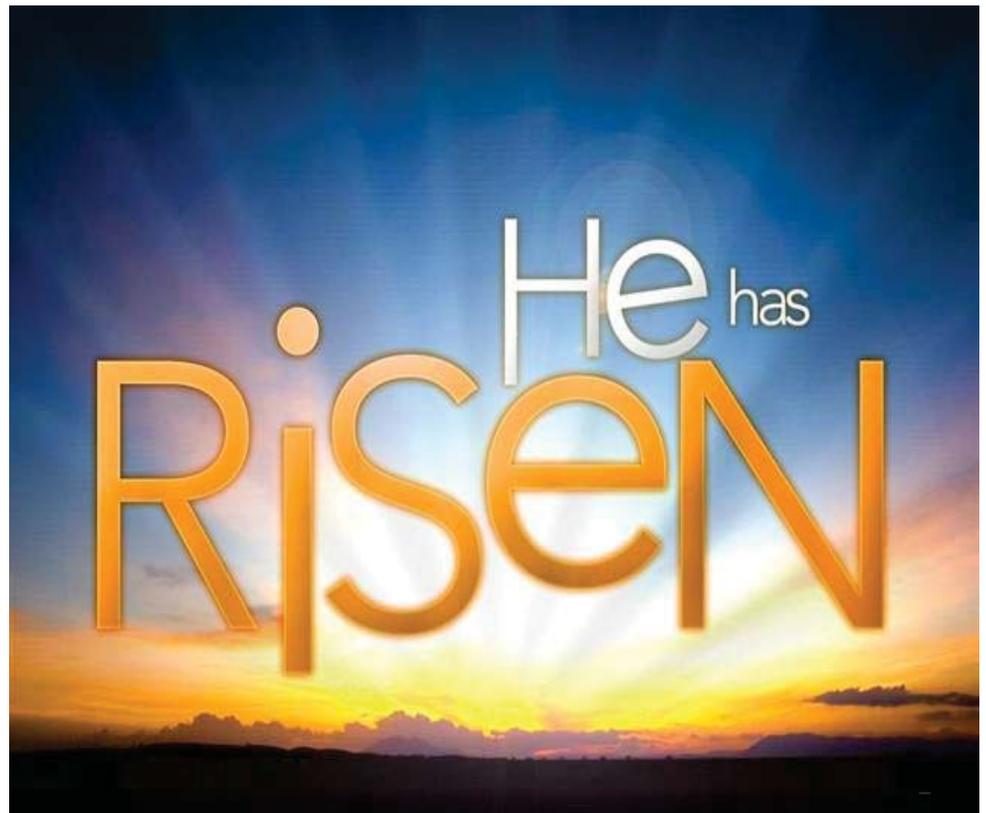
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*Wishing all of you
a very
Happy Easter*



Jeffrey's Journal

*Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.*

We recite this “memorial acclamation” in our Eucharistic Prayer in Sunday worship. In this brief statement, we express a major piece of the faith that binds us together as Christians, and the faith that opens us to God’s saving grace. Christ has died.—Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God, God Himself, come into the world to dwell among His people. On Good Friday, we will mark His death on the cross. It is unthinkable that the eternal God of all creation would actually die. But we know that He did it on purpose, for us. “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” This is what Jesus said at the Last Supper, the night before He died. (Matthew 26:28)

Christ is risen! What a stupendous, miraculous, glorious thing! On the third day of His death, Jesus rose to life again. We proclaim this as one of the central truths of the Christian faith. Had Jesus not risen from the dead, rumors of His divinity would have died away very soon. After all, if He was only a dead man, what would there be to worship? As Paul said in his first letter to the Corinthians, “...if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead...” (I Corinthians 15:17-20)

In the 1980s and 1990s, a group called the “Jesus Seminar” convened to determine what we should believe from the Gospel. It purported to be a scholarly conclave, although not all of the “fellows” were scholars. They used assumptions, human experience, logical reasoning and surmises to determine, by yes or no vote, whether the deeds and words of Jesus reported in the canonical Gospels were authentic. Their

consensus painted Jesus as a mortal man with a justice/liberation oriented agenda. They concluded that He died as any other man would, and did not rise from the dead. In most endeavors to find the truth, eye witnesses are given great weight. However, the eye witnesses to the resurrected Jesus (of whom the Bible tells us there were 500) were dismissed as having had nothing more than visionary experiences. One has to wonder why 500 people would risk their lives to report that Jesus was alive, when even Jesus’ closest associates were so afraid of the authorities that they hid quietly in the crowd as Jesus was nailed to the cross. In fact, their leader, Peter, denied even knowing Jesus on the night of His trial. If we surrender to the Jesus Seminar, Easter is just a matter of Easter bunnies. But, praise the Lord, Jesus did rise from the dead. And nothing will ever be the same.

Christ will come again! How we cherish that promise Jesus made to us. (See Matthew 24:30-31) We know that His sacrificial death on the cross defeated Satan, and struck the fatal blow to his reign of evil. But as we look around us at the work of Satan still wreaking havoc, we can see that Jesus’ decisive blow is still being worked out. It’s like the battles that still break out after the war has been won. We, in fact, are the people whom Jesus left on the front lines to mop up and prepare the way for His triumphant return. Thankfully, we have His power working in us, because He has already returned into the life of every believer. But a glorious day will come when He will judge the living and the dead. In the meantime, we remember His death, we proclaim His resurrection, and we await His coming in glory.

Yours in Christ,
Jeffrey O. Cerar



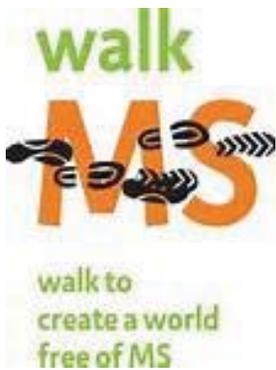
CRUSADE!

St. Stephen's Night, April 24

Every April, First Baptist Church holds a Crusade from Sunday through Wednesday night. It is a revival, in which people are invited to sing, worship, hear a Gospel message and offer their lives to Christ.

First Baptist has invited St. Stephen's to provide the music and the message for the last night of Crusade, on April 24, 2013. I am looking forward to preaching, and the choir will be working to prepare for this exciting event. I hope you will join us for a good turnout from St. Stephen's.

Yours in Christ,
Jeffrey



On **Saturday, April 20 at 9 a.m.** there will be the first Multiple Sclerosis Walk in Kilmarnock. Starting at Grace Episcopal Church there will be a one mile walk and a three mile walk. You can register by calling 804-591-3037. Hope to see you there.

Sharon Baldacci.



Praise the Lord for our "baker men." Kudos to **Jim Conley and John Powers** for baking such delicious bread for our Lenten Soup Suppers. Your generosity was *tastefully* appreciated.



Senior Warden Report

We are all looking forward to our blessed Easter celebration of Jesus' glorious resurrection to deliver us from the power of our enemy. We are blessed with the wonderful assurance that we will be with Him forever. What a joy to be a Christian. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Spring is upon us with all the beauty and glory of God's creation. What a great time to renew our faith in Christ and recommit ourselves to serving Him. I hope all of us are determined to do what we can to strengthen the mission outreach of St. Stephen's. Yes, we continue to plan for our new church building and that work will continue for a long time. In the meantime, we must remember those who need our help and support. The vestry has set realistic goals for each of our missions in the local, national, and overseas arenas. We understand and appreciate the fact we are a mission church directed by God. I am often asked whether we can support our missions while building a new building, and the answer is a resounding "yes." We must balance our resources and energies to strive toward both goals.

The Building Committee has defined most of the space requirements for the new building. As we go to press, we are working to develop satisfactory solutions to a couple of remaining unresolved issues.

The required engineering studies are well underway by Barry Strake, the engineer who developed our master plan. Once his work is approved by the governmental agencies, we will start to see progress on our site. The construction details are under development by David Norden, his staff, and structural/technical engineers who will provide the building plans to the winning contractor. The process is arduous, but all who have experienced the creation of a new building will tell you the wait is worth it.

As I asked you in church on Sunday, please continue to pray for the entire building effort.

In Christ,
George

New Wineskins for Global Mission 2013



This is an invitation for you to consider attending the next conference of the New Wineskins Missionary Network which is scheduled on April 4-7, 2013 in Ridgecrest, NC. This

conference is an opportunity to look through a window to the worldwide Christian movement from an Anglican perspective. Three years ago at the last conference, I was able to attend with several members of St. Stephen's. We were inspired, encouraged and educated about what is happening all over the world. There were workshops, daily Bible study, awesome worship, good food, and comfortable accommodations. Regardless of your involvement with worldwide mission, you will come away excited, uplifted and moved by what God is doing around the globe.

The purpose is to gather together over 900 participants from the USA and countries all over the world to "inspire and equip clergy, lay leaders, youth ministers, potential missionaries, and entire congregations to fulfill the Great Commission and make disciples of all nations." If you find yourself discouraged by what you see in the Christian church in this country, then perhaps this conference is for you at this time. The conference is a crash course in what is going on in the Christian church worldwide. It is important for all of us to grasp the bigger perspective of what God is doing.

The conference registration is \$225 per person plus the cost of lodging, meals and gas. We are fortunate in that Ridgecrest is within driving distance. There will be a brochure and list of workshops posted on the church bulletin board. Please pray about this and see if God is calling you to learn more about the Global Mission Movement in the Anglican Church. Speak to me, or to Jeff, if you are interested or have questions. It is a wonderful opportunity!

Mary Swann

Community Outreach Program

In a few weeks, we will be starting our fifth season of the Community Outreach Program. For those not familiar with the program, it involves door-to-door visits to homes in the Heathsville area. On Monday evenings, after praying for the guidance and empowering of the Holy Spirit, we go out in teams of two or three for approximately an hour and a half (depending on available daylight) and knock on doors. Every home we visit is given a gift bag containing some small treats, a New Testament, our Newsletter, and other information about St. Stephen's Anglican. We typically discuss the church and its programs, extend an invitation to visit St. Stephen's, and pray with the people we meet for any special needs they may have. If the Holy Spirit provides the opportunity, we will also share the gospel. We have been warmly received in the community, with most people willing to talk about spiritual matters and few showing any resistance to visits from our teams.

We will have a lot to talk about during our 2013 visiting program, particularly as we move toward construction of our new church building. But most importantly, St. Stephen's -- through its 2009 "Sharing Our Faith" seminars, current apologetics classes, and Jeff's sermons on the subject -- has done a good job of preparing its people to be ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

We hope you agree and will join us for an informal organizational meeting following our Sunday service on April 7th. Our tentative start date for the 2013 program is Monday, April 22nd. If you have any questions about the Community Outreach Program, please contact me at 804-435-6098 or at jbhart@va.metrocast.net.

Brian Hart

**GOD is
SO GOOD!**



Women of St. Stephen's

On a rainy afternoon on Saturday, March 16, members of the Leadership Team welcomed thirty-one women to a high tea in Brinkley Hall. Beautiful linens, fine china and silver graced the tables with centerpieces of greens and Bells of Ireland. The warmth of the ambience set up inside quickly dispelled the rain and grey clouds outside as our guests were welcomed to a special tea. Many hands went into making this a very successful occasion for our women, and my deepest thanks are extended to the members of the team who prayed, made the teapot favors, decorated the space, baked and prepared a variety of tea time treats, brought their china and silver and linens and helped to set up and take down afterwards. What a terrific team and I heartily congratulate each one of them for their hard work and a job well done! The object of the tea was to be an expression of love from the Leadership Team to our women of St. Stephen's, that they would feel like honored guests and bask in the love of Jesus.

In addition, special thanks go to Gail Gillan for her decorating expertise and to Morris Dillingham who spent the afternoon with us to run the sound system and to Ben Ward and Bill Andrulot. We could not have done this event without their selfless assistance.

The highlight of our time together was the program which Sandi Ward put together. She chose five women from the Bible to represent the five purposes of St. Stephen's Anglican Church. As Sandy moderated, Charlotte Hundley portrayed Mary of Bethany to represent Fellowship, Margaret Radcliffe portrayed Mary Magdalene to represent Ministry, Gail Gillan portrayed Anna for Worship, Lyn Conley portrayed Hannah for Discipleship, and Constance McDearmon portrayed Naomi for Mission. Each of these women was dressed in costume and brought her character alive with sensitivity and animation. Sandi tied it all together with posters

and dialogue on our five purposes. Many of us were moved to tears as we were drawn into the biblical characters portrayed, exemplifying God's plan for us today as women living out the purposes of St. Stephen's Church. Kudos to Sandy and her cast of Charlotte, Margaret, Gail, Lyn and Constance for an outstanding program and heartfelt performance!

Many thanks to Hospitality Team 3 headed up by Sally Custer for the lovely reception it provided after Jane Blackwell's memorial service at St. Stephen's Anglican Church. It was held late in February at Jane's family home of Belleville.

The next meeting of the women of St. Stephen's will be held on Thursday, April 18th at 10:30 a.m. in Brinkley Hall following the 10:00 o'clock Mid-Week Service downstairs. Lunch is included and more information will be forthcoming.

May the joy of Easter abide in your hearts and fill your homes as we continue to celebrate the extravagant love the Father has lavished on us through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer.

Blessings and love,
Donna Soule



Attention Thrift Shop Volunteers and Volunteer Wannabes...

There will be a thrift shop training session at the shop on **Monday, May 6**, beginning at 10:00 a.m. If you are not yet a volunteer, this is your chance to see what it's all about. We are also asking present volunteers to participate so that we are all on the same page regarding procedures. More information about this training will be coming. In the meantime save the date. -Suzy Norman

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*Want to Go Cruising to
New England & Nova Scotia
with Your Church Friends?*



There is an eight night cruise to New England and Nova Scotia, leaving from Baltimore, Thursday, September 19, 2013. It's always fun to cruise with your church family, so if you are interested, contact Laddie Townshend, 580-6172. He has all the details. So far, we have three couples from St. Stephen's signed up.

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

Ushers

April 7	Marie Carstensen, Lyn Neira
April 14	Steve Proctor, George Beckett
April 21	Barbara and Bill Ressler
April 28	Langley and Todd Lewis
May 5	Bobby Edmonds, Lewis Smith

Acolytes

April 7	Jennifer Radcliffe
April 14	Sarah Saunders
April 21	Chris Cralle
April 28	Marley Kimmitt
May 5	Emma Saunders

Lesson Readers

April 7	Susan Read (L) Margaret Radcliffe (P)
April 14	Brooke Read (L) Phyllis TeStrake (P)
April 21	Priscilla Williams (L) Bill Tracey (P)
April 28	Howard York (L)
May 5	Charlaine Andrulot (L) Tony Blackstone (P)

Eucharistic Ministers

April 7	George Beckett and Constance McDearmon
April 14	Tony Blackstone, Irene Haley
April 21	Ward LeHardy, Lucy Logan
April 28	Suzy Norman, Fred Woodard

Altar Guild

April	Ellie Knight, Elaine Price and Bobbie Townshend
May	Ruth Franck, Jane Peterson and Virginia Townshend

Prayer Ministers

April 7	Tad de Bordenave, Mary Swann
April 14	Jim Conley, Susan Thomas
April 21	Sam Marston, Lynne Cerar
April 28	Steve Proctor, Donna Soule

Coffee Hour

April 7	Charlaine and Bill Andrulot
April 14	Howard and Lynn York
April 21	Pam and Herb Smith
April 28	
May 5	Ward and Judy LeHardy



Apr. 2	Chris Cralle
Apr. 3	Eleanor Semerjian
Apr. 6	William Ressler
Apr. 7	Allen Joslyn
Apr. 9	Bobby Edmonds
Apr. 11	Shirley Smith, Bob Dalzell
Apr. 12	Roy Hillman
Apr. 19	Sally Custer
Apr. 22	Agnes Burke
Apr. 28	Edward Ulfig
Apr. 29	Nathaniel Joslyn



Apr. 1	Charlaine and Bill Andrulot
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O God, grant that the wills of this man and this woman may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives. Amen.

2013



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Suzy Norman, Editor
suzy@mnwhf.com



Prayer & Praise

*Join us Friday, April 5th
at 7:00 p.m.*